

Perunjani Reservoir.

259. *MR. C. JEBAMONY NADAR : Will the Government be pleased to state whether they have decided to construct the Perunjani Reservoir?

MR. I. C. CHACKO : No.

MR. C. JEBAMONY NADAR : Was there not a scheme under the consideration of Government known as the Perunjani Reservoir Scheme? May I know whether the scheme was dropped?

MR. I. C. CHACKO : This Scheme will solve the problem only partially. It is doubtful whether the relief afforded would justify the expenditure. The matter is under further consideration of the Government.

Women Police in the State.

260 *MR. G. VELU PILLAI (*Karunagapalli cum Kartikapalli*) : Will the Government be pleased to state :

- (a) the number of Women Police in the State at present ;
- (b) what their duties are ; and
- (c) where they are on duty at present ?

RAJYASEVAPRAVINA KHAN BAHADUR G. S. ABDUL KARIM SAHIB SUHRAWARDY : (a) 1 .

(b) They are deputed to guard women prisoners who are treated in the female ward of the Hospital. Their services are utilised for arresting and searching female prisoners and for escorting them from the lock-ups. They are also deputed to do bandobust duty at places where large numbers of women are expected and at the camps of distinguished Lady State Guests.

(c) They are at present attached to the Head Quarters Office undergoing training in all branches of police work.

Ezhava Act Amending Bill.

261 *MR. P. KUNJUKRISHNAN : Will the Government be pleased to state :

- (a) the date on which the Ezhava Act Amending Bill was introduced in the Legislature ; and
- (b) why it has not made progress so far in its natural course through the Legislature ?

MR. PUTHUPALLI S. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Legal Remembrancer to Government*) : (a) 7th August 1940.

(b) Government understand that the Select Committee to which the Bill was referred by the Assembly has not yet submitted its report.

MR. P. KUNJUKRISHNAN : May I know whether the select committee has now submitted its report ?

MR. PUTHUPALLI S. KRISHNA PILLAI : No, Sir, it has not.

MR. P. KUNJUKRISHNAN : May I know why it has not ?

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MR. PUTHUPALLI S. KRISHNA PILLAI: Further information had to be got so far as the convening of the committee was concerned. It was also learnt that a section of the community opposed the Bill. Government had to consider whether it was necessary to nominate a member representing that section. These facts contributed to the delay.

MR. K. G. GOVINDAN: May I know whether the Government think that a Bill is not necessary as it is a repealing one?

MR. PUTHUPALLI S. KRISHNA PILLAI: The Government have no such idea. The Bill is in the House and it has been referred to a select committee.

MR. PULIYOOR T. P. VELAYUDHAN PILLAI: Whose duty it is to fix up dates for the non-official Bills?

MR. PUTHUPALLI S. KRISHNA PILLAI: The Convener.

MR. PULIYOOR T. P. VELAYUDHAN PILLAI: May I know who the convener is?

MR. PUTHUPALLI S. KRISHNA PILLAI: Ordinarily the convener is the chairman of the committee itself.

The Ezhava Bill.

262. * **MR. M. G. KESAVA PILLAI (Trivandrum Town):** Will the Government be pleased to state:

(a) whether they have received petitions and memorials from the Misradayee Ezhavas of Travancore who are opposed to the Ezhava Bill introduced by Mr. N. R. Krishnan;

(b) the prayers contained in them; and

(c) whether they have taken any action on them, and, if so, what?

MR. PUTHUPALLI S. KRISHNA PILLAI: (a) Yes.

(b) The only prayer is that certain persons representing the Misradayee Ezhavas who are opposed to the measure should be co-opted to the Assembly for the purpose of the Bill.

(c) Yes; a Misradayee Ezhava has been co-opted to the Assembly for the purpose of the Bill.

MR. P. KUNJUKRISHNAN: May I know the approximate number of Misradayee Ezhava families in the State?

MR. PUTHUPALLI S. KRISHNA PILLAI: I claim notice, Sir. It is a very large question which cannot be answered off-hand.

MR. P. KUNJUKRISHNAN: May I know the approximate number?

MR. PUTHUPALLI S. KRISHNA PILLAI: It is very difficult to ascertain now.

MR. K. G. GOVINDAN: May I know whether there is any member to represent the Misradayee Ezhavas in the State Council?

MR. PUTHUPALLI S. KRISHNA PILLAI: The Bill is before the Assembly which has referred it to a Select Committee. The Bill is not before the State Council. Therefore I do not see the relevancy of the question here.

PRESIDENT: I suppose what has happened in the Secretariat might have got out. The information that some proposals are going on to nominate a member for the Council might have leaked out.